

THE BOOK OF JOB



GOD AND JOB

Job 40:1-14 NRSV

*And the Lord said to Job:
“Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty?
Anyone who argues with God must respond.”*

*Then Job answered the Lord:
“See, I am of small account; what shall I answer you?
I lay my hand on my mouth.
I have spoken once, and I will not answer,
twice but will proceed no further.”*

- Job 40:1-14

⁶ Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:

“Gird up your loins like a man;

I will question you, and you declare to me.

Will you even put me in the wrong?

Will you condemn me that you may be justified?

Have you an arm like God,

and can you thunder with a voice like his?

Deck yourself with majesty and dignity;

clothe yourself with glory and splendor.

Pour out the overflowings of your anger,

and look on all who are proud and humble them.

- Job 40:1-14

*¹² Look on all who are proud and bring them low;
tread down the wicked where they stand.
Hide them all in the dust together;
bind their faces in the world below.
Then I will also acknowledge to you
that your own right hand can give you victory.*

- Job 40:1-14

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“The whole story of Job is a massive raising of questions to which the book does not provide answers; it is about living with questions to which we do not have answers.”

- John Goldingay, Job For Everyone

*There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job.
That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God
and turned away from evil.*

- Job 1:1

*But when I looked for good, evil came,
and when I waited for light, darkness came.*

- Job 30:26

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:

- Job 38:1

*Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?
Gird up your loins like a man;
I will question you, and you shall declare to me.*

- Job 38:2-3

*Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.
Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?
On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone
when the morning stars sang together
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?*

- Job 38:4-7

*Have you entered into the springs of the sea
or walked in the recesses of the deep?
Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?
Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?
Declare, if you know all this.*

- Job 38:16-18

*Can you hunt the prey for the lion
or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,
when they crouch in their dens
or lie in wait in their covert?
Who provides for the raven its prey,
when its young ones cry to God
and wander about for lack of food?*

- Job 38:39-41

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“Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty?
Anyone who argues with God must respond.”*

*Then Job answered the Lord:
“See, I am of small account; what shall I answer you?
I lay my hand on my mouth.
I have spoken once, and I will not answer,
twice but will proceed no further.”*

- Job 40:1-5

Job answered God:

“I’m convinced: You can do anything and everything.

Nothing and no one can upset your plans.

*You asked, ‘Who is this muddying the water,
ignorantly confusing the issue, second-guessing my purposes?’
I admit it. I was the one. I babbled on about things far beyond me,
made small talk about wonders way over my head.*

You told me, ‘Listen, and let me do the talking.

Let me ask the questions. You give the answers.’

*I admit I once lived by rumors of you;
now I have it all firsthand—from my own eyes and ears!
I’m sorry—forgive me. I’ll never do that again, I promise!
I’ll never again live on crusts of hearsay, crumbs of rumor.”*

- Job 42:1-6 (The Message)

*After this Job lived one hundred and forty years and saw his children and his children's children, four generations.
And Job died, old and full of days.*

- Job 42:16-17

God does bring happy endings to all of our stories, even if it doesn't come immediately

The book of Job points to our
relationship with God

“The key is recognizing that God is trustworthy,
so we can live in trust and submission to God
even when we do not know why bad things happen to us.”

- John Goldingay, Job For Everyone

How can you have
a covenantal relationship with God?
By spending time with him.